1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
20	Rajasthan	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
21	Sikkim	14	03	12	02	NA	NA
22	Tamil Nadu	849	64	NA	NA	NA	NA
23	Tripura	29	Nil	Nil	Nil	NA	NA
24	Uttar Pradesh	1528	144	NA	NA	93	08
25	West Bengal	159	22	118	12	NA	NA
26	A&N Islands	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	NA	NA
27	Chandigarh	47	06	16	03	16	NA
28	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	02	01	01	Nil	07	NA
29	Daman & Diu	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	NA	NA
30	Delhi	415	35	349	25	NA	NA
31	Lakshadweep	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
32	Pondicherry	139	03	115	01	NA	NA
33	Chattisgarh	11	04	01	01	NA	NA
34	Jharkhand	86	07	236	55	NA	NA
35	Uttaranchal	07	02	04	01	NA	NA
	TOTAL	12839	812	8172	488	7736	329

NA= Information not made available by the States / UTs.

Black marketing and hoarding of essential commodities

3296. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that black marketing and hoarding of essential commodities is on the rise in the country leading to rise in prices and shortage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of complaints received in this regard and action taken against those people involved in hoarding and black marketing;

(d) whether Government has directed State Governments to ensure declaration of excess stocks by wholesellers to prevent hoarding and black marketing; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The prices of some essential commodities have risen during the current year on account of various factors like poor rainfall, high international

prices, rising demand etc. In commodities like pulses and edible oils, imports take place every year because domestic production is not sufficient; 15-20% of pulses and 40-45% of edible oils are imported to meet the domestic demand. In the case of rice, due to poor monsoon, kharif production is likely to be lower than the demand. Similarly in the case of sugar, production has fallen short of demand in 2008-09.

(c) No such records are maintained centrally. Powers have been vested with State Governments for taking action under the provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980. However, the action taken by the State Governments under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 against persons involved in hoarding, black marketing etc. in respect of essential commodities during the year 2009 (upto 30.11.2009) as reported by them is as under:

Year	No. of raids	No. of Persons arrested	No. of Persons prosecuted	No. of Persons convicted	Value of goods confiscated (Rs. in Lakhs)
2009	131875	6436	3351	46	15518.47

The State Governments/UT Administrations have taken action and reported detentions under the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980. The total number of detentions in 2009 (upto 30.11.2009) is 137.

(d) and (e) To enable the State Governments/UT Administrations to take effective action for undertaking de-hoarding operations under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, it was decided to enable State Governments to impose stockholding limits by keeping in abeyance some provisions of the Central Order dated 15.02.2002 in respect of pulses, edible oils, edible oilseeds, rice and paddy for the period upto 30.09.2010. The commodity wheat which had also been included in the above list has been removed *w.e.f.* 01.04.2009.

Further, in respect of sugar, the Central Government have also issued Orders providing for stock-holding/turnover limits which are as follows:

Stockholding: (i) in Kolkata and extended area -

(a) recognized dealers who import sugar from outside West Bengal- 10,000 quintals;

(b) other recognized dealers -2000 quintals;

(ii) in other places - 2000 quintals.

Turnover: No dealer can hold the stock of sugar for a period exceeding 30 days from the date of receipt by him of such stock.

The State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have fixed the stock limits as per their requirement. As per information furnished by the State Government/UT Administrations 23 State Governments / UTs have either issued stock limits for all the six items or for individual items or have

issued only licensing requirements/ stock declaration (of these 23, 18 States/UTs have actually issued stock limit Orders; 5 States/UTs have issued licensing requirements/stock declarations).

Speculative trading of essential commodities

3297. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that even before the impending drought conditions arose, speculative trading in essential commodities was playing havoc with the prices;

(b) whether Government is also aware that in the month of June, 2009 alone, the cummulative value of trading in the commodity exchanges, according to the report of the Forward Markets Commission of India was a staggering Rs.15,64,l 14.96 crores from Rs. 2,21,888.06 crores in June, 2007; and

(c) if so, by when Government would ban the speculative trading in essential commodities in order to control the price rise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Facts show that futures trading in essential commodities has not been responsible for the price rise in recent period. There is no future trading in Urad and Tur since January 2007 when it was suspended. But the prices of these commodities are showing sharp increase during 2008-09 and 2009-10. The year-on-year price increase (in terms of Wholesale Price Index) at the end of financial year 2008-09 (29.3.2009) was 14.7% for Urad and 17.1% for Tur. During the year 2009-10 (as on 28.11.09) Y-o-Y increase was 59.46% and 72.25% for Urad and Tur respectively. As against this there is futures trading in Gram. Year on Year change of Prices of Gram was negative at -6.8% in 2008-09 and 4.32% during 2009-10 (as on 28.11.09) respectively. Therefore, the increase in prices of commodities need not necessarily be attributed to future trading. In fact an Expert Committee appointed by the Government of India under the Chairmanship of Planning Commission's Member Prof. Abhijit Sen to examine whether futures markets was responsible for rise in the prices of essential commodities in its report submitted in April 2008 did not find futures market responsible for the increase of the prices of essential commodities. The forward trading in a commodity is a mechanism for price discovery and price risk management and not a mechanism to check price rise. The futures market gives price signals for future periods of time based on the most likely supply and demand situation at those points of time. The market is tightly regulated. There are various effective tools like margins, price band, open interests limit etc. which the Regulator (Forward Market Commission) employs to regulate futures trading.

(b) The total value of trade during period three months of April to June 2009 was Rs.15, 64,114.96. The value of trade during the corresponding period of April - June 2008 was